



INSTITUT  
**SIMONE DE BEAUVOIR**  
INSTITUTE

# INSTITUT **SIMONE DE BEAUVOIR** INSTITUTE

*information bulletin*

<http://artsandscience1.concordia.ca/wsdb>

October, 2008

Volume 1

<http://thesimonedebauvoirinstitute.wordpress.com>

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 Message from the Principal
- 1 News @ the Institute
- 2 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary/Reunion
- 3 Announcement/Memorial
- 4 The Reading Room  
Upcoming Events
- 6 A Brief Timeline

## A MESSAGE FROM CHANTAL MAILLÉ

*Acting Principal, Simone de Beauvoir Institute*

Dear Members of the Institute, students, Fellows, Research Associates, and friends.

Please note that we will be celebrating the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Simone de Beauvoir Institute on November 21<sup>st</sup> with a full day of events.

There will be a new search for the position of Principal of the Institute. The deadline for submitting applications is December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008.

We are also very pleased to have two Lillian Robinson scholars visit the Institute this term. Kathlene MacDonald is an assistant professor of English at the City College Center for Worker Education/CUNY. She gave a talk on September 30<sup>th</sup> about "*Transnational Left Feminist Culture and the Fight Against Facism in the Post-World War II United States*".

*Please see **Message from Chantal Maillé** on page 4*

## NEWS@THE INSTITUTE

The Institute would like to extend a warm welcome to Jean Chapman, our new Research Associate. Jean graduated with the doctorate on July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2008 from the Department of Peace Studies, University of Bradford, England. It is the only university that offers a post-graduate degree in Peace Studies. Before embarking on this journey, Jean was working as a consultant in social and environmental sciences here in Montreal. She did fieldwork in India, the Philippines and across Canada's north, but much of her time was taken with the Naskapis, a First Nation located 17 km from Schefferville in Northern Quebec.

Jean's Doctoral research is grounded in feminist theory and quantitative methodology.

*Please see **News @ the Institute** on page 3*

---

*"The Institute would like  
to extend a warm  
welcome to  
Jean Chapman."*

---



# Simone de Beauvoir Institute's 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary/Reunion

*"Concordia's women's College is designed to make trouble"* said the Montreal Gazette in 1978, and here we are 30 years later.

## Schedule of Events

### 1:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m.

Panel discussion with former principals of the Simone de Beauvoir Institute

- Maïr Verthuy
- Arpi Hamalian
- Elizabeth Henrik
- Barbara Meadowcroft (for Marianne Ainley)
- Kaarina Kailo
- Fran Shaver
- Candis Steenbergen (for Lillian Robinson)
- Viviane Namaste
- Chantal Maillé

### 3:45 p.m.-5:30 p.m.

Alumni and student panel discussions

### 5:45 p.m.-6:30 p.m.

Cocktails with speech by Interim Dean, Joanne Locke

### 6:45 p.m.-9 p.m.

Dinner and keynote address by Concordia President,  
Dr. Judith Woodsworth

For more information, contact Derek Linetsky at 514-848-2424, ext. 5629, or by e-mail at :  
[Derek.linetsky@concordia.ca](mailto:Derek.linetsky@concordia.ca)

The cost of registration is \$35.00 per person (\$10.00 for current students).

**The Montefiore Club**  
**1195 Guy St.**  
**Montreal, QC**



Wheelchair  
Accessible

This event was made possible with the financial support of the Office of the Dean of Arts and Science, **Joanne Locke**.

Students were subsidized by the Dean of Students, **Dr. Elizabeth Morey & the SdeB Institute**.

The Institute would also like to acknowledge the help and support of the **Office of Advancement & Alumni Affairs**.



## ANNOUNCEMENT

It is with great sadness that I pass on the news of Marika (Marianne) Ainley's passing.

**12/4/1937 - 9/26/2008**

Marika peacefully took her last breath at 5:34 pm surrounded by loved ones: her husband David, daughter Vicky and son, Mark, with her sister Gyongyi on a phone that was lying on her chest.

A memorial is being organized by Barbara Meadowcroft on November 9<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 pm. Please contact Yasmine Amor for more information.

You can visit Marika's blog at: [Marikaainley.blogspot.com](http://Marikaainley.blogspot.com)

## MEMORIAL

The Simone de Beauvoir Institute invites you to a celebration of the life of Marika (Marianne) Ainley.

Dr. Ainley joined the Institute as a part-time lecturer in 1988 and became the Principal from 1991-1995.

**Where:** Loyola Chapel

**When:** Sunday, November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2008 @ 2:00 pm.



*Marika (Marianne) Veronika  
Gosztanyi Ainley*

---

*News@ the Institute* cont'd from page 1

Jean's fieldwork was conducted in a Khmer minefield. She gave an interesting talk on September 11<sup>th</sup> about her journey that began as a confused Montrealer following the invasion of Iraq in 2003 to her make-over as a student of international relations.

It is with mixed feelings of sadness and pride that we say good-bye to Marc Lafrance.

Marc came to us in September 2006 as a post-doctoral fellow. He fit into the life at the Institute extremely well and, we hope, enjoyed his time here. Marc has been hired and is now working in Sociology/Anthropology. We wish Marc every success with his new career.

The Institute would like to extend its congratulations to Carina Foran on receiving an award at the Undergraduate Research Day.

Carina's research-action project identifying existing systemic gaps in research on the sexual health of young women in Canada took top honors in the Social Sciences oral presentation category.

---

*"It is with mixed feelings  
of sadness and pride that  
we say good-bye to Marc  
Lafrance."*

---



*Message from Chantal Maillé* cont'd from page 1

*the Possibility of Empowered Mothering*". She is an associate Professor at the School of Women's Studies at York University.

The Simone de Beauvoir Institute Council will be held on Friday, October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2008 at 13:30. Book these dates in your calendar.

+ I would like to welcome our new events coordinator, Yasmine Amor. Yasmine is a student in the Women's Studies programme who brings her international media experience and multiple talents to this position. Yasmine has worked with Women Make Movies in New York City and with Masala TV in Montreal.

## THE READING ROOM

---

The Simone de Beauvoir Institute encourages all Concordia students, faculty and staff to visit our Reading Room located on the fourth floor of the MU Annex at 2170 Bishop Street.

We offer a quiet, comfortable space for those seeking a place to study as well as a lending library. This feminist library is a great resource for those wishing to consult any number of our books, government documents, magazines, academic journals and videos.

Our collection is very special and diverse, but not automated. However, computers are available for those looking for online information like journals, databases, internet and/or other universities' collections.

As an added bonus, a dedicated librarian is available to help students find the information and resources they need for their research.

So if you are looking for resources in feminism, sexuality, transsexual's issues, health, literature, politics, family, motherhood, globalization, environment, native women, or anything else that pertains to women's issues, please come by and we will be happy to help you with your research questions.

### Reading Room – Fall Hours

Monday to Wednesday - 10:15 - 16:00

Thursday - 10:15 - 18:00

Friday: Closed

Contact: Isabelle Lamoureux  
MU - 401, 2170 Bishop Street  
514-848-2424 ext. 2377

Rienvenue!

## UPCOMING EVENTS

---

### Film Screenings

#### "BOY I AM"

A film by Sam Feder & Julie Hollar

(2006, 72 minutes, color)

*Tackling the resistance of some women in feminist and lesbian communities who view FTM transitioning as, at best, a "trend" or, at worst, an anti-feminist act that taps into male privilege, this ground-breaking film opens up a dialog between the lesbian, feminist, and transgender communities while also promoting understanding of transgender issues for general audiences.*

—WMM

**Where:** Hall Building, 1455 de Maisonneuve Blvd. W.  
Room H-762

**When:** Thursday, October 30<sup>th</sup>, 2008 @ 20:00

#### Trappings of Transhood"

A film by Christopher Lee & Julie Hollar

(1997, short)

**Where:** Check the blog:

<http://thesimonedebeauvoirinstitute.wordpress.com>

**When:** Thursday, November 20<sup>th</sup> @ 20:00



### **"Woubi Cheri"**

A film by Philip Brooks & Laurent Bocahut

(1998, 62 minutes, color)

*Woubi Cheri is the first film to give African Homosexuals a chance to describe their world in their own words. Often funny, sometimes ribald, but always real, this documentary introduces us to gender pioneers demanding their rights to construct a distinct African Homosexuality.*

**Where:** Check the blog:

<http://thesimonedebauvoirinstitute.wordpress.com>

**When:** Thursday, November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2008 @ 20:00

## **BOOK LAUNCH**

---

### **"Stealing Nasreen"**

By Farzana Doctor

(Inanna Publications)

*The process of leaving one's country and finding a sense of belonging in another is often rife with uncertainty and turmoil. What makes Stealing Nasreen such a riveting read is the way it takes this uncertainty and makes it even more complex by adding sexuality and desire to the angst-filled immigrant experience.*

- Quill and Quire

Farzana Doctor is a Toronto-based writer, social worker and educator.

[www.farzanadoctor.com](http://www.farzanadoctor.com)

**Where:** Centre 2110, 2110 Mackay St.

**When:** Friday, November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2008 @ 19:00

### **"Gwethalyn Graham: A Liberated Woman in a Conventional Age"**

By Barbara Meadowcroft

Despite being a two time recipient of the Governor-General's Literary Award and the author of *Earth and High Heaven*, Gwethalyn Graham slipped into relative obscurity. In this compelling biography, Barbara Meadowcroft seeks to restore Graham to her rightful place in the annals of Canadian literary and cultural history.

**Where:**

<http://thesimonedebauvoirinstitute.wordpress.com>

**When:** Thursday, November 13, 2008 @ 17:00

### **CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS:**

There are plans in the works to publish a commemorative magazine for the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. The Institute is looking for submissions from faculty, students, staff, anyone who has been connected with the Institute in any way. Tell us your stories, your experiences, anything you like.

The magazine won't go to print until May or June of 2009, so there is plenty of time.

Send your articles, stories, ponderings, experiences to:

[Linda.bowes@concordia.ca](mailto:Linda.bowes@concordia.ca)



## A BRIEF TIMELINE

---

### 1976 - 1977

Three faculties from the newly formed Concordia University are merged into the Faculty of Arts and Science. The size of this merger prompts Concordia's academic deans to propose the establishment of an unspecified number of "colleges" to handle undergraduate programs.

### August 1977

Provost Robert Wall proposes to establish colleges a few at a time in order to prevent "disaster". One of the proposals Wall receives is from French professor Mair Verthuy and Philosophy Professor, Christine Allen advocating a women's college. Their proposal says the college would not exclude men from taking classes.

### February 1978

Feminist Simone de Beauvoir approves the use of her name for Concordia's new Women's Studies institute.

### February 24, 1978

The first two college proposals are approved by Concordia's Senate. The tentatively-named Women's Studies Institute and Centre for Mature Students are scheduled to open in September 1978.

### March 9, 1978

The Women's Studies institute is approved by Concordia's Board of Governors. It [...] will become part of Arts and Science's new Division IV.

### September 1978

The Simone de Beauvoir Institute officially opens its doors. Mair Verthuy [...] is appointed Principal. She is joined by two assistant principals, 11 tutors and four part-time instructors[...]. They all begin working out of an annex located at 2170 Bishop Street, a building that had once served as a brothel called *Pussy Galore*, and then a lesbian bar, *Mrs. Arthur's* [...].

### October 1978

The Institute begins selling police whistles in an effort to counter sexual assault and rape. The move comes after reports of attacks against students, prompting police recommendations. The recommendations, which include not going out alone at night, are criticized by members of the Institute because they "pose a serious threat to [a woman's] basic right to be anywhere at any time for any reason."

### March 1979

Having attracted 100 students in its first year, the Simone de Beauvoir Institute is heralded as a success [...]

### August 20, 1979

Part-time professor, Greta Nemiroff, is informed that she will not be re-hired for the Fall semester. The official reason given is to "cut down on part-timers and try to bring more full-timers in." The decision sparks a huge controversy among members of the Institute.

### October 4, 1979

At a general assembly of the Institute, members pass a motion to dissolve it. The motion is rejected by the Principal and the administration. Later in the month, former Institute members plan to start an independent institute outside the University.

### July 1981

The Women's Studies Students' Association is formed in response to a perceived lack of power afforded to students in the program who are not members of the Institute.

### Summer 1982

The Institute hosts the "International Conference on Research and Teaching Related to Women" in Montreal.



### June 1, 1983

Elizabeth Sacca becomes the Institute's second principal.

### September 1985

At the urging of the Women's Studies Students' Association, the Institute offers its first course on lesbianism taught by Yvonne Klein.

### April 14, 1986

Simone de Beauvoir dies in Paris at the age of 78.

### September 1986

Students propose the idea of a women's centre at Concordia and begin to seek out sources of funding.

### September 1987

The Concordia Women's Centre opens its doors for the first time as a safe space for women and a non-academic resource.

### October 29, 1987

*The Thursday Report*: At Concordia there is one of the greatest tributes to her [SdeB] - the college which bears her name - housed in a stubborn, century-old edifice on Bishop Street which has survived two major fires and a peculiar genesis from private residence to massage parlour to discotheque.

### October 28-31, 1987

The Institute hosts a conference: *New Technologies of Reproduction: Maternity in the Laboratory*. This was the first international forum of its kind. Six hundred participants from Australia, Belgium, England, France, Italy, Sweden, Switzerland, the United States, and all the provinces of Canada to part in the debates.

### February 12, 1988

"Lesbians in Society" becomes Canada's first accredited lesbian studies course. Meanwhile the Film Studies program offers Canada's first course in gay film studies, "Representation and Sexual Orientation: Aspects of Gay Male Literature and Film."

### 2000

The Institute publishes a double volume issue of the Review/Revue for the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Institute and the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Simone de Beauvoir's *"The Second Sex"*.

### January 2001

Anna Alexander, A women's studies professor, changes the name of her course from "Lesbian Issues and Realities" to "Queer Feminism" marking the first queer studies class at Concordia

### March 12, 2002

An article in *The Link's* women's issue calls for change in the Institute. The author says the Institute reflects "*white feminist academics with the occasional inclusion of women of color thrown in to present a weak façade of diversity*"

It also criticizes the "ivy-tower academics as guest lecturers" who, along with the Institute, teach through the use of "inaccessible academic jargon."

### March 26, 2002

Ten women's studies students express frustrations about the Institute. "Despite many calls to action," the students write, "The Institute has not put forth a trans-inclusive policy." It also notes the fact that the Institute's building at 2170 Bishop is not wheelchair accessible.

### April 5, 2002

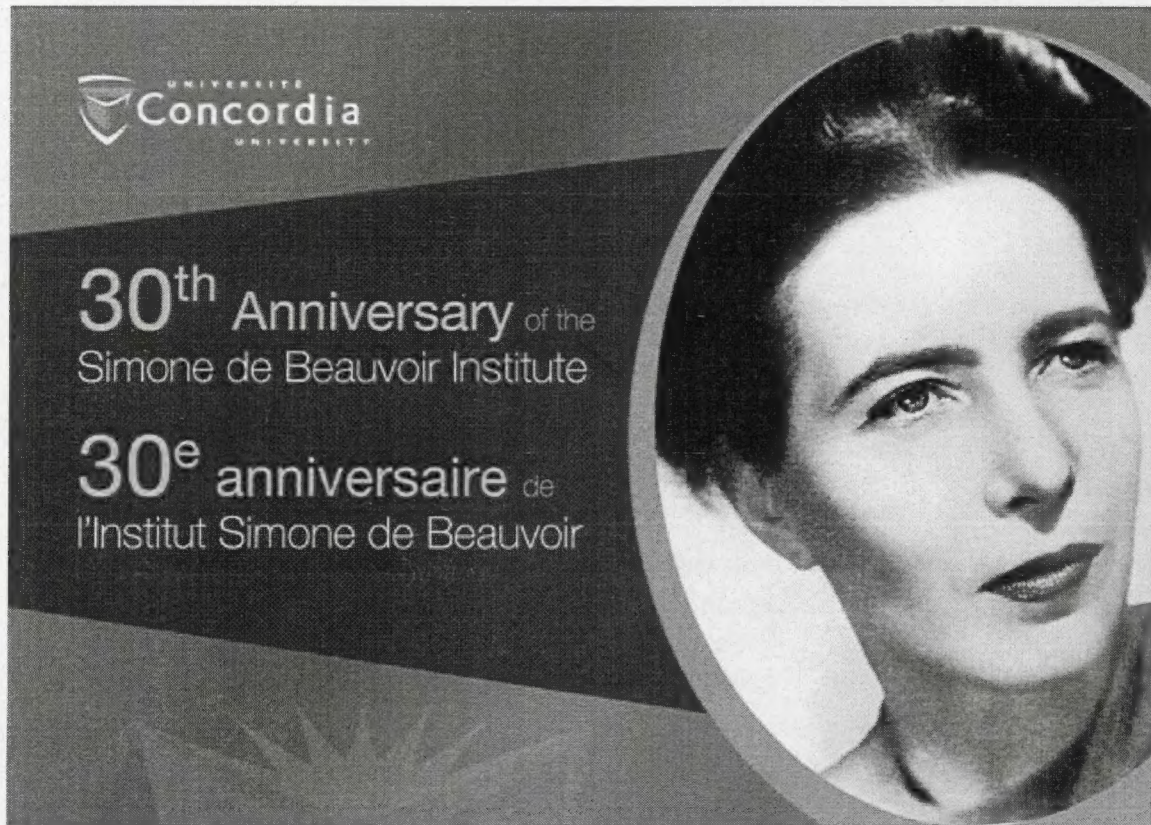
Institute Principal Lillian Robinson hosts an open debate about the issues raised. She states that wheelchair accessibility is the job of the University administration, but that classes can be scheduled outside the Institute's building to accommodate students with disabilities.



September 2003

The Institute celebrates its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a lecture series on current issues facing women around the world.

Five years since then! So much has happened and a lot more is being implemented. So please join us at the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration on November 21<sup>st</sup> at the Montefiore club to catch up and to create the ongoing and tremendous history of the Institute.



**Here's to another 30 years (+)!**